

"that sat upon her seven hills" was to fade, and the pride of Eastern magnificence and greatness was to be humbled.

The period of which we speak dates back to the fall of the Western Roman Empire, which occurred in 476, A. D. At this time we find the city of Romulus in the hands of the northern barbarians. The barbarian conquest which at this time terrified all Europe, carried away in its wake early civilization, and as the wave of destruction rolled across the continent, much that had been accomplished for the good of humanity was buried in oblivion, only to be exhumed after long years of toil and research. What wonder then that the Eastern World was, for a thousand years, groveling in darkness and barbarism. Many clouds of darkness have brooded over the world since history began, but this seems to be the one which envelops all others, and, folding them beneath her uncouth wings, floats on, leaving the world almost in a state of helplessness.

Such then was the beginning of the "Dark Ages," a period of about a thousand years, that carries us up to the time of the discovery of our own continent. About the beginning of the tenth century, however, we see things wearing a different aspect; they bear a marked change. For, at that time the crusades were undertaken to regain the Holy Land, the patrimony of the Saviour, from the hands of the infidel Turks. Thenceforward, we see the spark, ignited by Peter the Hermit, growing into an unextinguishable flame, which causes all Europe to emerge from that lethargic state into which she had fallen. Yes, this obscure person commenced a work which engaged the ablest minds of the Eastern world; and to-day his name adorns the page of history as a benefactor of mankind.

We might say that the age of improvement dates back to the tenth century, from which time the world has been advancing in the arts and sciences, and in civilization. But let us now recross the ocean

and speak of that which concerns us more directly. Columbus encountered many difficulties, and trusted himself upon the bosom of the pathless ocean in order that he might accomplish that which he thought to be his mission; and who is able to calculate the result? Little does the individual know, and less does he realize how much good can be accomplished through his instrumentality. The discoverer of the Western world never knew the real grandeur of his discovery, yet the blessings upon mankind cannot be estimated.

In 1492 our continent was discovered, but it was nearly three centuries before any permanent settlement was made. Soon, however, the tide of emigration began to increase. The Alleghany Mountains were crossed, and the wave rolled westward until 1848, when gold was discovered in California. As soon as this became known, men were aroused in all quarters, swarming to the land of gold with the eagerness of a Cyrus, and the rapidity of an Alexander, hoping there to find the idol of their affections.

From that time until now our population has increased rapidly. To-day we are the happy owners of a broad and beautiful country, containing over forty millions of souls.

Come, welcome thousands, to our shore,
You long-oppressed in distant lands;
Our portals ope that you no more
May feel the weight of iron bands.

Were I to recount the numerous inventions of the last four centuries, I fear that I should grow tiresome. Permit me to say, however, that our doors are open to foreigners. The institution of slavery, with all its blighting influences, has been abolished, and we are a free people, holding, as it were, the chief place in the catalogue of nations. But the work is not all done yet. We, as individuals, having the welfare of the country at heart, and having a voice in the government of that country, should work carefully according to the dictates of our better judgment.